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Please amend the claims as follows:

5. (Amended) The DNA or RNA molecule of claim [6] 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein wherein n is 1 and the linker is a glycine/serine repeat.

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6. (Amended) The DNA or RNA molecule of claim 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a protein wherein the α subunit or β subunit or both are modified by the insertion of a complete or partial CTP unit or variant thereof into a noncritical region thereof and/or wherein said linker includes a complete or partial CTP unit or variant thereof, wherein CTP refers to the amino acid sequence found at the carboxy terminus of human chorionic gonadotropin β subunit which extends from amino acid residues 112-118 to residue 145, [or a portion thereof or a variant thereof] and said partial CTP unit includes at least one glycosylation site.

R E M A R K S

Claim 5 has been amended to correct typographical errors; claim 6 has been amended to insert the definition of "partial CTP." The Examiner's position is correct that in view of the word "preferably" on page 12, line 21, the limitation would not have been incorporated into the claims absent the present amendment. The amendment to the claims is responsive to the sole remaining formal matters made the basis for objection to the claims.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants appreciate the acknowledgment by the Office that claims to the proteins and their corresponding recombinant materials would ordinarily be examined in the same application. However, the current application is under final rejection, not subject to amendment to add claims as a matter of right, and therefore applicants have chosen to submit a divisional application directed to the proteins. This application was filed 31 March 1999 and has serial no. 09/282,357. A terminal disclaimer with respect to this application is enclosed.

Vao

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